

Application of HORIUCHI-- Serial No. 10/662,331 -- Atty. Dkt. 008312/0305980

### REMARKS

Reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the forgoing amendments and the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated October 5, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection, the Applicant has canceled claims 1-7, thereby rendering moot the Examiner's rejection. In their place, the Applicant inserts new claims 8-25, which are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Derc et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,669,446). As indicated above, the Applicant has canceled these claims, thereby mooting the Examiner's rejection.

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to former claims 4-7.

In keeping with the Examiner's suggestion, the Applicant has written new claims, which the Applicant respectfully submits do not raise any issues under 35 U.S.C. § 112. To assist the Examiner in understanding the affiliation between the new claims and their canceled counterparts, the Applicant respectfully points out that claim 8 incorporates many of the limitations of former claim 4 (and the limitations of the claims on which it depended). Claim 12 incorporates many of the limitations of former claim 5. Similarly, claim 16 correlates, to some degree, with former claim 6. Finally, claim 21 finds at least a portion of its basis in former claim 7.

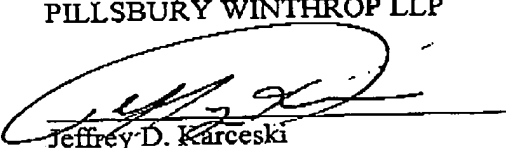
The Applicant respectfully submits that the new claims are patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and objection of the claims and pass this application quickly to issue.

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If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper that are not otherwise accounted for, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-3975 and refer to Order No. 008312/0305980.

Respectfully submitted,

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